

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13328 240908Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 SS-15 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9837

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB,

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY OF LABOR

MARSHALL

1. MINISTRY OF LABOR (MOL) OFFICIALS KUWABARA AND IWATA TOLD LABATT LAST WEEK THAT FROM JAPANESE POINT OF VIEW, IDEAL TIME FOR VISIT TO JAPAN BY SECRETARY MARSHALL WOULD BE BETWEEN JANUARY 15-25. AFTER JANUARY 25, AND UNTIL BUDGET IS PASSED BY UPPER HOUSE (GENERALLY IN EARLY OR MID-APRIL) MINISTER OF LABOR IS LEGALLY REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT AT ALMOST DAILY MEETINGS OF UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEES. LAST THREE WEEKS OF APRIL USUALLY FIND SENIOR MOL OFFICIALS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN BEHIND THE SCENES RESOLUTION OF ANNUAL PRIVATE SECTOR WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, IF SECRETARY'S VISIT DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY 1979, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL MAY. MOL SHARES OUR VIEW THAT SUCH DELAY WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE AND HOPES THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DATE IN JANUARY CAN BE FOUND.

2. IN INTERIM, ONE WAY TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM DEVELOPED DURING SECRETARY MARSHALL'S MEETING WITH MINISTER FUJII WOULD BE FOR DOL TO RECEIVE DEPUTY VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IWATA IN WASHINGTON THIS FALL, JUST

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PRIOR TO HIS ATTENDANCE AT ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING IN EARLY NOVEMBER, IWATA HAS MADE NO SECRET OF HIS DESIRE TO REVISIT WASHINGTON AFTER LAPSE OF 10 YEARS AND HAS ALREADY PUT OUT FEELERS TO THIS EFFECT WITHIN MOL. IN ORDER TO HELP IWATA'S PLANNING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL READING FROM DOL AS TO WHETHER DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY SAMUEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET IWATA DURING

FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER. ALTERNATIVELY, MOL WOULD UN-
DOUBTEDLY WELCOME VISIT BY SAMUEL DURING PERIOD THIS
FALL WHEN IWATA IS IN JAPAN. MANSFIELD

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